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# COMMITTEE TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE EDWARD ZORINSKY

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## RESOLUTION

OF THE

## COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY UNITED STATES SENATE

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# COMMITTEE TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE EDWARD ZORINSKY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 1987

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY,
*Washington, DC.*

The committee met at 10:09 a.m., in room 332, Russell Senate Office Building, Hon. Patrick J. Leahy (Chairman of the Committee) presiding.

## TRIBUTE OF HON. PATRICK J. LEAHY, A U.S. SENATOR FROM VERMONT

The CHAIRMAN. I had never anticipated being in the position of introducing a resolution of this nature. I have served on this Committee for 12 years, this being my 13th. I have always considered the Members, all the Members, of this Committee as good friends. Unlike some other committees, this is one that operates with a great degree of collegiality, friendship, and mutual respect among its Members. It has attracted some of the best Members of both parties. When we lose a Member of the Committee in as untimely a fashion as we lost Ed Zorinsky, I think it hurts every one of us deeply. When I received the news in Vermont that weekend, it was a great shock to me. I served beside Ed Zorinsky for 10 years on this Committee. We sat beside each other; he was elected in 1976 and joined the Committee immediately. He was our Ranking Member during consideration of the 1985 farm bill and sat through all those meetings and the conference committee meetings. In fact, in the 10 years he has been on this Committee, I think this is the only time that I have seen his seat empty, as it is beside me this morning. Certainly his attendance was better than mine and better than virtually anyone's on this Committee. He was a leader on soil conservation, farm credit, trade, and pork promotion programs; a leader in the fight against the Soviet grain embargo. He fought tenaciously for his Nebraska farmers and ranchers. He certainly made his views well-known before the Committee. Everybody knew exactly where Ed stood.

He and his wife Cece had an amazing partnership. I know, because my office was right next door to Ed Zorinsky's, and I used to see Cece in there every single day. The two of them were inseparable, an example to all of us. I will not only miss Ed Zorinsky as a good friend and neighbor, but also miss seeing Cece there each day. I know how difficult a time this is for her and for their children: Barry, Jeff, and Susan.

Monday evening I got together with Dick Lugar and suggested to him that we have a Committee Resolution, which you have before you, and that we jointly propose this resolution before the Committee.

I propose the resolution in memory of a good friend and a valued Member of this Committee. With that proposal, I yield to Senator Dick Lugar.

## TRIBUTE OF HON. RICHARD G. LUGAR, A U.S. SENATOR FROM INDIANA

Senator LUGAR. Mr. Chairman, I thank you very much for your compassion and your insight into what would be the appropriate thing for us to do. This literally is a death in the family for us on this Committee. I can recall, at least during my experience, only one other such occasion, when Hubert Humphrey passed away, and we all paid tribute to that great American.

With Ed Zorinsky I go back to my mayor days in which he served as mayor of Omaha. Ironically, both of us, meeting at National League of Cities meetings, and U.S. Conference of Mayors meetings, could not have predicted that we would end up in the Senate on the same day and join really the same committees. From the beginning of this 10 years that you have commemorated, Mr. Chairman, we have moved from one end of the table to the other. During the course of that time we also shared so many days of both joy and controversy in the Foreign Relations Committee.

I simply join you in thoughtfulness about the life of an outstanding American, certainly a very dear friend. I just appreciate so much this opportunity for us to meet today in his memory.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, and I would like to yield to the distinguished Senator from North Carolina, who served as Chairman of this Committee with Ed Zorinsky as the Ranking Minority Member.

## TRIBUTE OF HON. JESSE HELMS, A U.S. SENATOR FROM NORTH CAROLINA

Senator HELMS. Mr. Chairman, I thank you and Senator Lugar for scheduling this occasion for us to think about and talk about Ed Zorinsky. Perhaps it's been done before many times, but, other than the occasion of Senator Hubert Humphrey, I don't recall one. It's a fine thing for you to do and I appreciate both of you having done it.

Senator Zorinsky's death hit me hard. It was the second time in less than 9 months that I have lost a colleague to whom I was especially close. I need not recount my relationship with John East. It's not necessary either to dwell on the fact that Ed Zorinsky was the Ranking Minority Member of this Committee during the last 2 years of my chairmanship.

There never was a moment during those 2 years when Ed Zorinsky was not totally cooperative and willingly helpful. He went out of his way to be so. In fact, Senator Zorinsky on so many occasions did everything he could to keep the wheels turning during the difficult months when this Committee was producing a farm bill.

I was in New Hampshire when Ed passed away, and I didn't learn of it until I was going into a banquet hall in Concord to speak at the 75th birthday party/dinner for former Governor Thompson. Someone mentioned that a Senator had passed away, according to a brief radio report, and I said which one, for heaven's sake; and he said, well, I'm not sure—I think it was Senator Zorinsky. Needless to say, my speech Saturday night was difficult, because my mind was on Ed and Cece and their children.

In coming to this room this morning, where Ed and I and all the rest of us have sat together so many hours, it was difficult, too.

As you have indicated, Mr. Chairman, we have lost a member of the family. I halfway expected to see Ed sitting there, knowing of course it would never happen again. But I guess the question arises: What does one say at a time like this? That we are sad? Of course we are. That we've lost a dear friend and a great American and a splendid Senator and a kind and gentle and civil man? Of course we have. Do we say that Ed Zorinsky was unique in his ability to avoid all posturing and pretense? Well, of course he was.

This is one of those times when I wish I had the ability to be eloquent even for a fleeting moment. I cannot. There are so many things that I would like to say, and say them so much better than I'm saying them.

Suffice it to say, Mr. Chairman and fellow Members of this Committee, that Senator Zorinsky was one of the finest, most dedicated men I've ever known. He was, as Dick Russell used to say, one of nature's noblemen. I was honored to have him as my friend. Like all of us gathered here, Dot and I extend our loving sympathy to Cece and the family—their loss is our loss; it is certainly the farmers' loss; and it's America's loss.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Helms. I want to thank all Members who set their business aside for this meeting to honor Senator Zorinsky. It's a fine tribute that virtually the whole Committee is here this morning for this resolution.

I hear no objection to the resolution, and the resolution is passed unanimously.[1]

I ask that the Committee now observe a moment of silence.

[A moment of silence was observed.]

The record will remain open to include statements by any Member of the Committee. The resolution will be appropriately prepared, together with the records of the special meeting of the Committee, in an appropriate fashion to be presented to the family of Senator Zorinsky. The Committee staff will be empowered to take whatever steps are necessary to do that, without objection.

If there is no further comment, we will stand in recess for 2 minutes, and then reconvene to return to the Farmers Home hearings being held today.

[Whereupon, at 10:22 a.m., the Committee recessed.]

[The following statements were submitted by Committee Members:]

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[1] See p. 14 for a reprint of the resolution.

## TRIBUTE OF HON. JOHN MELCHER, A U.S. SENATOR FROM MONTANA

Ed Zorinsky was one of the truly dedicated, independent, and tenacious Members of this Committee and the United States Senate.

Ed Zorinsky was first, last, and always a committed public servant, spokesman and advocate for American agriculture.

His untimely and tragic passing leaves a deep void, not only on this Committee where he served with distinction for 10 years, but in rural America.

We will miss Ed Zorinsky in the continuing struggle for a fair policy for America's farmers, ranchers, and agribusiness.

We will miss his friendship, his courage, his independence and nonpartisanship.

Ed Zorinsky looked at the crucial issues facing this country not from a partisan political point of view, but from a standpoint of what he thought was right—right for his beloved Nebraska and America.

It is with deep regret and a sense of personal loss that I extend my condolences to his wife and family on his passing.

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## TRIBUTE OF HON. DAVID L. BOREN A U.S. SENATOR FROM OKLAHOMA

Mr. Chairman, I am proud to join in support of this resolution honoring our friend and colleague, Ed Zorinsky.

Not only have we lost a great friend, so have the farmers of this Nation. No one sympathized more with them in their problems, no one worked harder to help them. Only a few days after he was hospitalized for a heart attack, he was on the Senate floor well past midnight during consideration of the 1985 farm bill. As he told me, "The farmers are in too much trouble for me to leave the floor while the farm bill is up."

Ed was one of the most fair minded people I've known. He was always willing to listen to an argument with an open mind. He was always available to listen to his constituents. In a day when people feel alienated from their own governments, the open door (a door literally taken off its hinges) to Ed Zorinsky's office was an important symbol. This was no public relations gesture, Ed Zorinsky truly had an open door to the people of Nebraska. He worked hard to bring the thinking of Nebraska citizens into the policy debates of the U.S. Senate.

All of us will miss our fine and thoughtful friend. We join in extending our sympathy to his family and to his wonderful wife and true partner, Cece. Our entire Nation suffered a great loss when Ed Zorinsky's voice was stilled.

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## TRIBUTE OF HON. HOWELL HEFLIN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM ALABAMA

I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of my good friend and colleague, Senator Edward Zorinsky. It was a great shock to me and has filled the entire Senate with an enormous sense of loss. I am reminded of the words of the English poet, John Donne: "ask

not for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee." Indeed, whether conscious of it or not, every citizen of our Nation has been affected by the death of Ed Zorinsky. In all he did, he held the best interests of not only the Nebraskans he represented, but of all Americans, as tantamount. His actions demonstrated the great responsibility he held for all citizens, and he will be missed.

One primary area in which the efforts of Ed Zorinsky will be missed is in agriculture. The American farmer never had a better friend than Ed Zorinsky. Ed realized that the family farm is the backbone of America. We worked long and hard together on the Agriculture Committee to give farmers a fighting chance through the adverse economic and weather conditions that have threatened their ability to make a living. As a member of the Subcommittee on Agricultural Credit and Rural Electrification, Ed was alarmed at the number of farm bankruptcies which have recently been declared, and had vowed to take immediate corrective action.

Furthermore, Ed shared my attitudes of generally being a fiscal conservative. He joined in the effort to pass the Constitutional Amendment to Balance the Federal Budget, and he recognized the great dangers posed by deficit spending and the national debt.

Throughout his tenure in the United States Senate, I believe that Ed used the experience he had gained while he served as the Mayor of Omaha. He knew where his responsibility lay—with the people of Nebraska, and of the United States. He demonstrated his availability by removing the door of his office from its hinges and announcing that any constituent or reporter who so wished could enter his office whenever he was present.

Above all else, Ed was a person who was down to earth. He knew where his roots were and what he was elected for—to serve the people of Nebraska—not himself. In the District of Columbia you sometimes meet people and elected officials who have lost sight of this fact. They may work to increase their standing in the public eye without actually working to substantively serve those who elected them. That was never the case with Ed Zorinsky—and never would have been. He knew what his purpose was, and he pursued that goal with undeviating, tireless efforts.

Edward Zorinsky will be greatly missed, yet I know that his example will long be remembered. He followed a path that was largely nonpartisan, opting instead to view legislation and issues on their own merits. He was an outstanding American, and an outstanding Nebraskan. He was filled with the greatest integrity, and industry. His absence will, indeed, be felt by all.

I would like to extend my most heartfelt condolences to Cece Zorinsky and to the entire family. Though I am sure that they are overwhelmed with grief, I hope they will find comfort in the immense record of public service and in the memory of Edward Zorinsky.

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## TRIBUTE OF HON. KENT CONRAD, A U.S. SENATOR FROM NORTH DAKOTA

Mr. Chairman, I knew Edward Zorinsky for only a brief time. During our time together on the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Ed became my friend. I grew to respect his in-

telligence, his sense of humor and his wisdom, and his dogged tenacity in fighting for agriculture and the people of Nebraska.

Ed Zorinsky was a dedicated public servant. He served his city, his State, and his Nation with distinction and honor. He loved Nebraska and Nebraskans and fought for their welfare here in the Senate. Nebraskans have lost a friend and an eloquent spokesman for their State.

I will miss my friend Ed and his wise counsel. I extend my condolences to Cece Zorinsky and their children. I hope it eases the burden of grief to know that Ed was respected as a dedicated and distinguished public servant.

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**TRIBUTE OF HON. WYCHE FOWLER, JR., A U.S. SENATOR FROM GEORGIA**

Senator Zorinsky was a great supporter and a strong voice of rural America. As the ranking Democrat on the Senate Agriculture Committee, he provided leadership for many of our most valued rural initiatives. He will be missed by the people of rural America.

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**TRIBUTE OF HON. TOM DASCHLE, A U.S. SENATOR FROM SOUTH DAKOTA**

I join my colleagues in honoring our colleague, Ed Zorinsky.

Although I was privileged to serve with Ed on the Senate Agriculture Committee for only a few months, it was enough time to see the kind of leader he was. He was a forceful and dynamic fighter for American agriculture and for Nebraska farmers. He had a deep and sincere concern for all of rural America and always did what he believed was best for farmers.

He provided outstanding leadership as a longtime Committee Member, and in that capacity, Ed Zorinsky authored crucial provisions of both the 1981 and 1985 farm bills, regarding soil conservation, farm credit, product promotion, trade and embargo protection. As chairman of the Subcommittee on Production and Stabilization of Prices, he worked diligently to improve the agricultural and price stabilization programs that are so important to every farmer and rancher in Nebraska and throughout the country.

He was, most importantly, a strong fighter for all the people in his home State of Nebraska. He made sure that their concerns and the issues that were important to them were always at the top of his agenda in the United States Senate.

Ed Zorinsky's life touched many people, and his untimely and tragic death saddened a great many more. He will be sorely missed by his family, his colleagues and his friends; and his commitment to American farmers and ranchers will be missed by all of us who know how important that commitment is to rural America.

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**TRIBUTE OF HON. BOB DOLE, A U.S. SENATOR FROM KANSAS**

Mr. Chairman, I commend you for convening a special meeting of the Senate Agriculture Committee to consider a Committee Resolution honoring Senator Zorinsky. I support the Resolution and

will make brief comments in tribute to an outstanding leader, an outstanding Senator and an outstanding friend of the American farmer.

I worked with Ed Zorinsky on numerous occasions in this Committee as well as on other issues. Ed Zorinsky was one Senator who chose what was right over what was partisan. He stood up for what he believed in, but he was also willing to work with Members of this side when it was time to negotiate.

He was a key player in the farm bill battles which have come before us in this Committee, on the Senate floor and in our conference deliberations. I admired his understanding of agricultural issues, including the specifics and details of legislation as well as the broad parameters of the issue under consideration.

Mr. Chairman, I especially admired Ed Zorinsky's first objective—serving his constituents. He proved that he was a courageous and dedicated public servant who never stopped serving the interests of his State.

CONCLUSION

I join with the people of Nebraska in mourning the loss of this good and decent man. Rural America never had a better friend than Ed Zorinsky.

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## TRIBUTE OF HON. THAD COCHRAN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM MISSISSIPPI

The Members of the Agriculture Committee are certainly going to miss Ed Zorinsky! He brought to our Committee not only the experience of his service as Mayor of the City of Omaha but also the practical experience that he had in running a business. I can recall from time to time that he would draw on those experiences and contribute, during the discussions of issues before our Committee, practical, commonsense recollections of the meaning of competition and the experiences of trying to operate at a profit under the pressures of inflation, increasing costs, and other economic conditions that were not at all times conducive to making a profit.

He gave us the benefit of his wisdom that had been gained from these experiences. I really envied him in a way for having had that practical experience, and I certainly respected him for it.

I do not know of another Member of our Committee who has been more well-liked and truly appreciated as an individual than Ed Zorinsky.

He was a person who was always quick-witted. He made us laugh, but he also made us think.

My wife, Rose, and I enjoyed very much on many occasions being with Ed and his wife, Cece, and we are both going to cherish those memories.

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## TRIBUTE OF HON. RUDY BOSCHWITZ, A U.S. SENATOR FROM MINNESOTA

I am pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to the memory of our friend and colleague Ed Zorinsky. Ed served his State and his country with a wonderful combination of seriousness

and dedication to the tasks at hand and a sense of humor and sensitivity which made him a delight to work with.

As fate would have it, Ed and I got to know each other before either of us went to the Senate. More years ago than I care to remember, I was busy helping to expand my plywood business. Omaha, Nebraska was a prime site for one of our new stores. As our marketing ideas were different than most consumers were used to, we decided on an innovative advertising strategy as well.

The manager of our new Omaha warehouse was Jim Haubenschild and we decided to draw attention to our yet to be opened store by displaying billboards all over Omaha that read "Jim Haubenschild for Mayor". Of course everyone was wondering who Jim Haubenschild was. Stories were written in Omaha newspapers noting that Jim wasn't in the telephone book nor was he listed in the drivers license registry of Nebraska. Furthermore, Omahaenians' figured that whoever he was, he couldn't be too smart because it wasn't an election year.

Well the person who wondered most about the billboards was the then current Mayor of Omaha, Ed Zorinsky.

Finally, when we unveiled the secret Ed and everyone else had a good laugh. Jim went down to the Mayor's office where he shook hands with Ed (on the front page of the paper as I recall) and announced that he was "dropping out of the race" and was going to manage our warehouse instead.

Since then we have enjoyed many good times together as Members of this body. I will miss him as will his family and friends.

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## TRIBUTE OF HON. MITCH McCONNELL, A U.S. SENATOR FROM KENTUCKY

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate this chance to talk about my friend Senator Zorinsky. Ed was a valuable member of this Committee and we'll all miss his knowledge and wisdom on farm issues, but what I think Mitch McConnell will miss most about Ed is his pragmatic approach to difficult issues.

Simply put, if Ed Zorinsky said something was a good idea, it probably was. Conversely, if he thought something was a bad idea, it probably was a bad idea. He thought in simple and clear terms and it is a compliment to say that he thought like a constituent, rather than the Senator he was.

One of my most memorable Ed Zorinsky episodes was an act in the infamous 1985 farm bill debate. Following long, difficult and tedious debate, each House of the Congress had crafted its own version of a farm bill. The first meeting of the House-Senate conference was held right here in this room and the room was full of people—Members of the Senate and House Agriculture Committees, Committee staff members, staff members of Senators, administration types, reporters with any kind of a farm readership, lobbyists of every kind of farm group you can think of—I don't know if one more person could have been squeezed into the room.

Well, there were a lot of pictures taken, and finally, the meeting formally began with the Chairman and Ranking Member from both the Senate and the House Agriculture Committee each making some opening statements. Most of the statements were

fairly standard—it's going to be a long, difficult process and we're going to have to work together—and Committee Chairman Helms then called on Ed Zorinsky. We all anticipated the same thing from Ed.

Wrong! Ed blasted then Agriculture Secretary John Block for sending a letter to Conference Committee members which Ed declared threatened whatever working relationship that may have existed between the administration and the Conference. Furthermore, Ed assured Secretary Block in no uncertain terms that he, he being Senator Zorinsky, indeed was going to play a major role in the construction of the farm bill and that Jack Block had better be prepared for that.

Well, as other Members have noted Pat, the fingerprints of Senator Ed Zorinsky are all over the 1985 farm bill and American agriculture is better off because of it. Every Member of this Committee is privileged to have served with Ed as he served agriculture. I learned a lot from him, not only about agriculture, but about being a better representative for my constituents.

I join you and Jesse and the others who express our heartfelt sympathy to Ed's family in this difficult time.

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## TRIBUTE OF HON. CHRISTOPHER S. BOND, A U.S. SENATOR FROM MISSOURI

It is the spirit of our citizens which sets the United States apart from the rest of the world. Throughout history, the loyalty and commitment of our leaders have guided our country to the stature which it now enjoys. This role will prevail as long as as our leaders maintain the dedication exhibited by outstanding individuals such as the late Senator from Nebraska, Edward Zorinsky.

Although I knew Senator Zorinsky for only a short time, I quickly realized his commitment to serving not only Nebraska, but the entire country. He brought broad experience and deep understanding of the problems facing rural America to the Agriculture Committee. Senator Zorinsky was committed to the development and implementation of viable programs for our Nation's farmers.

In the passing of Senator Zorinsky, our Nation lost a truly capable and forthright leader. We can only hope that the virtues which he bestowed on us will be upheld and passed on to future generations. I join my colleagues, the citizens of Nebraska, and the entire Nation in honoring the late Senator Edward Zorinsky.

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## TRIBUTE OF HON. PETE WILSON, A U.S. SENATOR FROM CALIFORNIA

Ed Zorinsky was an old as well as a very dear friend. I was privileged to know him earlier than most of the other Members of the Senate because we shared the special bond of having been embattled big city mayors together. I gained even greater respect for him when we served together on the Senate Agriculture Committee. He was in those earlier days when I first knew him and in his last days, the same wonderful, dedicated, conscientious, somewhat shy and self-effacing fellow with a mischievous sense of humor. While he took his job very seriously, he never took himself seriously. In

fact, his closing moments were spent in amusing others at his own expense. Somehow that seems appropriate as a metaphor for his whole life, and as a model worthy of emulation by the rest of us. I can only say that I envy him and what he achieved in his too brief span—service to his State and Nation of enduring value, and the lasting respect, affection and gratitude of his colleagues and constituents. I am particularly proud to have served with him on the Agriculture Committee, and will miss him keenly—and remember him always.

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[The following statements were made on the floor of the U.S. Senate:]

[Reprint of floor statement of Senator Pryor from the Congressional Record of March 12, 1987]

## DEATH OF SENATOR ZORINSKY

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, last week the Senate lost one of its most independent voices with the passing of Ed Zorinsky. I want to join my colleagues in paying special tribute to this Midwesterner who reminded us regularly about the virtue of using common sense when dealing with the many problems that confront our Nation and our world.

Ed Zorinsky was not one to shrink at walking alone if necessary. Some would term it being a maverick. But Ed Zorinsky put what he thought best for the people of Nebraska and the Nation ahead of partisan politics.

I have had the privilege of working with Ed in the Agriculture Committee. I think the people of Nebraska can be comforted to know that they had no better advocate of what was good for agriculture in this country than Ed. In fact, rural America has had no better friend than Ed Zorinsky.

His service on the difficult Foreign Relations Committee has been equally as exemplary. Always a quick study, Ed Zorinsky got to the core of difficult international dilemmas with ease.

Barbara joins me in offering our condolences and prayers to Ed's wife, Cece, and their children.

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[Reprint of floor statement of Senator Harkin from the Congressional Record of March 11, 1987]

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, it is with a profound sense of sadness and loss that I rise to pay respects to the memory of our departed colleague and my good friend, Ed Zorinsky.

First, I extend the sympathies for myself and my wife, Ruth, to Cece and the family for whom he cared so much and for whom he did so much.

Ed was, indeed, a colleague in the best sense of the word, and a friend, also in the best sense of that word.

I first met Ed Zorinsky when he was the mayor of Omaha and I was a Congressman from the Fifth Congressional District of Iowa, the major city of which, Council Bluffs, bordered on Omaha, right across the Missouri River.

There is, of course, always that relationship between two cities, one in one State and one in another State on a river, in which, of course, sometimes you work together and sometimes you do not.

There is always a sort of a tussel for funds or for different kinds of support.

I remember that one time we were working on a project for a small community called Carter Lake, which is a small community that is an Iowa community but finds itself in Nebraska. Years ago, when the Missouri River changed its course, it left this little community there and it has remained to this day a city of Iowa located in the State of Nebraska. It is not a part of Omaha but right next to it.

I remember I was working on a project with the Congressman from Omaha dealing with Carter Lake and I had to go see the mayor of Omaha, Ed Zorinsky, about the project. In the past it has sort of been taken for granted by the citizens of that community that the mayor of Omaha did not really care about them. They were Iowans. They paid taxes in Iowa even though they lived surrounded by Omaha.

I expected to find Ed the biased mayor of Omaha. He was the first mayor of Omaha I had known or met. But he was not that way. He had a profound sense of understanding, sympathy, and concern for these citizens of Iowa located in this community of Carter Lake.

The relationship began to change, and he went out of his way as the mayor of Omaha to help these people in Carter Lake.

That is the first indication I had of the measure of this man and of his deep concern and feeling for people regardless of whether they were his constituents or not. He cared about people.

Ed Zorinsky was a son of an immigrant, the same as I am. We spoke about this on a couple of occasions, about how his father came from Russia, my mother came from Yugoslavia, and growing up in an immigrant family. And I remember once commenting to him about it after I had come to the Senate and Ed saying, "You know, only in America could the son of a penniless, uneducated immigrant ever hope to accede to the high office of a Senator."

He understood the opportunities that presented themselves to anyone in America, who applied himself or herself and worked hard, that America was indeed a Nation that was open to all and should always remain open to all.

Ed was the first mayor of the Jewish faith in the city of Omaha. In fact, he was the first Senator of the Jewish faith from the State of Nebraska. And being a member of a minority, I think it is a mark of his drive and his determination and his commitment that he was able to succeed and go on to become mayor, then a U.S. Senator and then to be reelected overwhelmingly by the citizens of his State.

Ed Zorinsky was an open person. I think if there was anything that marked his character it was that he was very open. Anyone could approach him. You could talk to him about anything. He had no preconceived ideas, no preconceived judgments on individuals or issues. He was willing to listen and to take his measure of the individual or of the issue.

He was a good-natured person, never mean-spirited, never talking ill of anyone. And anyone who has ever seen his song-and-dance routine could never doubt that he was indeed a light-hearted

and light-spirited individual who never took himself seriously, even though he took issues seriously.

He was an independent person. He was conservative on some issues and he was liberal on others. He was always a populist, always a populist at heart, always populist oriented toward the people. He was always for what was good for the people, not what was good for an institution, not what was good for an ideology, not what was good for a certain economic system or economic judgment, but what helped people help themselves. That really is the essence of what the populist spirit is all about: How do you get the structure of society so people are able to help themselves? And that was what Ed Zorinsky was, a real populist, a real progressive populist.

His support of family farmers was without question. Time and again in the Agriculture Committee, on which we both served, he spoke out, offered amendments time and time again to help family farmers. He was the author of the referendum bill that allowed wheat farmers to vote on the program that would affect them, to let them have a voice in what kind of farm program they wanted. We talked about this often. We both agreed that farmers should have a voice in the programs that affect them. We in Washington sit here and pass these farm programs year in, year out and yet never giving the farmers themselves the opportunity for farmers to vote to see whether or not they really want those programs.

Well, Ed Zorinsky wanted those farmers to have that right to vote on the programs that may mean their very life or their death as a farmer, and he was successful in getting it through. The wheat farmers overwhelmingly responded and overwhelmingly voted in the referendum for the type of farm program that Ed Zorinsky wanted. Again, he knew, he had this sense, this populist sense of what the people really want.

The same was true for his support for small business, for rural America. He was a super-salesman for small business, for rural America. He was a super-salesman for the State of Nebraska. If you ever traveled with Ed Zorinsky, you know that no matter where he went or who he talked to, he made sure that you knew and they knew that he was from Nebraska and that they knew everything about the good State of Nebraska.

He was a strong proponent of trade, not just trade in and of itself, but trade that benefited the United States. He wanted to know what we could do to make sure that we were competitive on the world market in agriculture?

Ed Zorinsky was an early and strong advocate for the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Central America. He was from the very beginning a friend of those who fought to overthrow the repressive Somoza regime in Nicaragua. Having been to Nicaragua several times, I can say firsthand that in traveling around Nicaragua, I have met a countless number of people—I do not mean just people in high places, I mean rank-and-file Nicaraguans who suffered under the repressive regime of Somoza—who, when they found out I was from Iowa, as a Congressman at that time or a Senator later, would invariably say, "Well, please give our thanks and our regards to Senator Zorinsky, our friend."

I know that perhaps his feelings and his votes in this area probably came as a great consternation to many of his conservative friends, as perhaps his strong support and votes for a balanced budget and less Government probably caused consternation for many of his liberal friends. But, as I said, Ed was independent. He was really an independent spirited man, and that was really the mark of him, a truly independent person.

Now I have to tell you that Ed and I did not always agree on matters, but usually these were matters of degree or procedure. In agriculture, we fought for the same things, the same ideals and the same goals for our family farmers. In Central America, we fought for the same thing, a peaceful resolution for that conflict.

I guess if anything would describe the battles that I had with Ed once in a while was simply that Ed Zorinsky was a very patient man. That is an attribute that is not always ascribed to this Senator from Iowa. So I guess I was impatient and he was very patient. But, again, we both, I think, fought for the same ideals and same goals for rural America, for our family farmers and small businesses.

Ruth and I were both very, very fond of Cece and Ed. We spent many happy occasions together with them. It was indeed a sad, sad Sunday afternoon last when we paid our last respects to Ed Zorinsky.

In speaking with Cece on Sunday afternoon, shortly after we had laid Ed to rest, we exchanged regrets and Cece turned to me and she said, "Well, you know Ed went out singing and dancing with a song in his heart."

Well, I think that Ed Zorinsky would not want to be remembered any other way than as one who loved life, who sang and danced, who loved his friends, and who loved his family.

John F. Kennedy was once asked how he would like to be remembered. He responded that the highest honor that could be given to anyone is to be remembered as a good and decent human being. We pay Ed Zorinsky that honor. We remember Ed Zorinsky, and always will, as a good and decent human being.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

[A reprint of the Committee passed Resolution follows:]

100th Congress
1st Session

# Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
## United States Senate

## Committee Resolution

To express the sympathy of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate regarding the death of Senator Edward Zorinsky.

**Whereas** on March 6, 1987, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate learned of the untimely and tragic death of its distinguished member, Senator Edward Zorinsky;

**Whereas** Senator Zorinsky provided the Committee with his outstanding leadership for over 10 years;

**Whereas** Senator Zorinsky authored key provisions of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (Public Law 97-98) and the Food Security Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-198), notably provisions regarding soil conservation, farm credit, product promotion, trade, and embargo protection;

**Whereas** Senator Zorinsky served as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Production and Stabilization of Prices, which oversees the agricultural price and income stabilization programs that are of vital importance to all American farmers and ranchers;

**Whereas** Senator Zorinsky was a tireless fighter for his Nebraska constituents, and all of the nation's farmers and ranchers; and

**Whereas** Senator Zorinsky was a valued colleague, trusted friend, and wise counsel to all of the members of the Committee: Now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, That the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate expresses its sympathy at the passing of Senator Edward Zorinsky, commends his contributions to the Committee and all of American agriculture, and extends its condolences to his family on this sad occasion.

**Be It Further Resolved**, That the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate shall transmit copies of this resolution to the widow and children of Senator Edward Zorinsky.

Approved this eleventh day of March 1987

71-302 (17)